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Sports Strengthen Communities

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In the United States, sports play a major role in community life. Players learn valuable lessons about discipline, teamwork and tolerance that help them succeed on and off the field. This issue of *eJournal USA* explores the integral role of sports in American society and highlights the power of sports to strengthen community bonds that transcend differences.

[Download the "Sports Strengthens Communities" in PDF format \(3.21MB\)](#)

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THE BIG THINK

[Sports in American Society](#)

By Rick Telander, senior sportswriter for the Chicago Sun-Times

Playing sports helps Americans overcome differences and bond as individuals — player to player — and as communities.

MY TAKE

[From Outsider to Olympian](#)

By Linda Miller, Olympic rower

With the help of mentors, family and community, Linda Miller transformed from a sports-shy child to a world-class athlete.

PROFILES OF AMERICAN SPORTSMANSHIP

[Scout Bassett: Defying Odds, Redefining Ability](#)

Paralympian Scout Bassett has overcome many barriers to success.

[Fugees Family: Finding a Home on the Field](#)

Jordan-born Luma Mufleh helps refugee children adjust to their new lives in the United States through soccer.

[Oren Lyons: The Legacy of Lacrosse](#)

Invented by the Iroquois tribes, lacrosse is a sport with a long history of bringing communities together.

[Ibtihaj Muhammad: Forging a New Frontier for Fencing](#)

Ibtihaj Muhammad wants all minority athletes to know they can achieve their dreams, regardless of race, religion or gender.

[Jennifer Beltran: Serving the Community](#)

A volleyball star gives back to the inner-city community that supported her.

PHOTO GALLERY

[Playing It Forward: Sharing the Power of Sports](#)

Top American athletes team up with sports enthusiasts in communities all over the world.

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